

MESSAGE

OF THE

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,

COMMUNICATING,

In compliance with a resolution of the Senate, the instructions to Mr. McLane, when appointed Minister to China.

APRIL 23, 1860.—Read and ordered to lie on the table. Motion to print referred to the Committee on Printing.

MAY 2, 1860.—Report in favor of printing the usual number submitted, considered, and agreed to.

To the Senate of the United States:

In answer to the resolution of the Senate of the 18th instant, requesting a copy of the instructions from the Department of State to Mr. McLane, when appointed minister to China, I transmit a report from the Secretary of State, with the instructions which accompanied it.

JAMES BUCHANAN.

WASHINGTON, *April 23, 1860.*

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, April 21, 1860.

The Secretary of State, to whom was referred the resolution of the Senate of the 18th instant, requesting the President, if in his opinion not incompatible with the public interest, to furnish to that body "a copy of the instructions from the Department of State to Mr. McLane, when appointed minister to China," has the honor to lay before the President the instructions called for by the said resolution.

Respectfully submitted.

LEWIS CASS.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.

Mr. Marcy to Mr. McLane.

No. 2.]

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, November 9, 1853.

SIR: The mission on which you are about to proceed is considered highly important, and the duties of it, owing to the disturbed condition of China, are likely to be difficult and embarrassing. The revolution now in progress in that country cannot fail to produce results of vast magnitude not only to China, but to the entire commercial world. The accounts do not furnish satisfactory information of its present condition, or enable us to conjecture, with any degree of certainty, what will be its result; it is therefore necessary that you should be vested with large discretionary powers.

You may establish your official residence wherever the convenience of the mission may require. The archives in charge of the secretary of legation were at the last accounts in Canton, and the commissioner himself was at Shanghai. You will make such change in this respect as you may deem expedient, and direct the secretary to transport the archives to such point as you may deem advisable.

Without desiring exclusive privileges, it is deemed especially important that, in any crisis which may happen in the affairs of the Chinese empire, you should direct your efforts towards the establishment of the most unrestricted commercial intercourse between that empire and the United States; and it would be most desirable that any commercial treaty which you may be able to conclude should provide not only for reciprocal free trade between the two countries in all articles of the growth, produce, or manufacture of either, and for the transportation in the vessels of the United States and of China, of the productions of other countries to and from the United States and China, or to and from other foreign countries. The right of fishing upon the coasts of China, and the free use of the harbors and rivers of that empire, with the designation of all their ports and harbors as ports of entry and clearance, should, if possible, be secured to the United States. It may not, however, be advisable to assent to a reciprocal stipulation on these points, for, even if there might not be much cause to apprehend that Chinese subjects would avail themselves of it, there are articles in treaties between the United States and other powers, pursuant to which the latter might claim from us the same privileges for their subjects. You will be duly empowered to make a similar treaty, if practicable, with Corea, Cochin China, or any other independent Asiatic power, with whom we have no treaty, and also to enlarge the powers and privileges heretofore obtained by treaty from such powers. Should Commodore Perry fail in making any commercial arrangement with Japan, you will renew the efforts for accomplishing that object, if a fair occasion for doing so should offer. To aid you in these negotiations, you will be furnished with copies of such treaties as have been already concluded with any of the eastern powers. Your actual traveling expenses, incurred in your efforts to accomplish any of these purposes, will be allowed in the adjustment of your accounts.

In 1852, Commodore Perry was dispatched to Japan, empowered and instructed to open an intercourse with that country, and negotiate a commercial treaty with it. That officer has already visited the island and delivered his letter of credence from the President of the United States to a high officer of the empire, for the purpose of having it transmitted to the Emperor. He has since returned to the coast of China, having given notice of his intention of revisiting Japan in the coming spring to receive the answer of the Emperor. Having thus been sent to Japan with instructions to open commercial intercourse with that empire, and taken the initiatory steps for that purpose, it is not proposed either to transfer that negotiation to you or to associate you with him in conducting it, unless he shall desire your coöperation therein, and you shall be able to render it without prejudice to the other objects of your mission.

Should anything prevent the commodore from bringing the negotiation with Japan to a close, you will be furnished with instructions in regard to its further prosecution.

You are herewith furnished with copies of all instructions heretofore given to Commodore Perry touching his expedition. That excellent officer will be duly advised of the powers possessed by you, and of the importance attached by the President to our relations with China. Should you deem the presence of any considerable part or the whole of the naval force under his command on the coast of China necessary to enable you to carry into effect the objects of your mission, you will communicate your views thereon to the commanding officer thereof. He will receive instructions in regard to rendering to you such assistance as the exigencies of the public interest may require, if it can be done without abandoning the principal end of his expedition or seriously hazarding its success. The President does not propose to subject him to your control, but he expects that you and he will coöperate together whenever, in the judgments of both, the interests of the United States indicate the necessity or the advantage of such coöperation. Commodore Perry will be fully apprised of the objects of your mission, and of the expectation of his government that he will afford you any assistance you may need, unless the rendering of such assistance should be detrimental to objects, equally important, committed to himself. It is anticipated that you will find it expedient to have a steamer at your disposal. Commodore Perry will therefore be instructed to comply with your request in this respect.

Should the revolutionary movement now in progress in China be successful, and the political power of the country pass into other hands, you will, at your discretion, recognize the government *de facto*, and treat with it as the existing government of the country. If that vast and populous empire should be divided, and several governments be organized within its present limits, promising stability, you will present yourself to each as the diplomatic representative of the United States, and enter into such treaties with them, respectively, as you may deem advisable.

In fulfilling your duties, it may be expedient for you to visit different parts of the empire of China, as well as some of the neighboring

nations. Your actual traveling expenses, in such cases, will be allowed in your account.

You will herewith receive a letter of credit on the bankers of the United States, at London, for these expenses, and for such assistance as is indispensably necessary, for the sum of \$10,000.

It is expected that you will keep this department advised, not only of your proceedings and movements, but of the actual condition of the Chinese empire.

I am, sir, respectfully, your obedient servant,

W. L. MARCY.

ROBERT M. McLANE, Esq., &c., &c., &c.